

We hope for a day when the stability of the Korean Peninsula is built on peaceful reconciliation of North and South. Today, however, the stability of this Peninsula is built on the military might of our great alliance. In our dealings with North Korea, we've laid down a clear marker. We will stand by the people of South Korea. We will maintain our presence here. And as I told the Congress and the world in my State of the Union messages, we will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us or our friends or our allies with weapons of mass destruction.

Those of you who are stationed here in Korea and members of our military throughout the world spend every day training and testing and preparing for any mission that may come. That's your responsibility, and you're the best in the world. And as your Commander in Chief, I have responsibilities to you to give clear orders, to set clear objectives, and to make sure you have everything you need to do your job.

So I'm asking Congress to pass more than a \$48 billion increase in our defense budget. It is the largest increase in military spending in a generation. It recognizes defending—the price for defending freedom will be high, but it's necessary to defend freedom. Our most important job is the security of the United States of America and the security of our friends and allies. And we will pay whatever price it takes to defend America.

I'm so grateful many of you have brought your families, who are here. A grateful nation not only thanks those who wear the uniform, but we thank the wives and husbands and sons and daughters and family members who sacrifice along with you. But in order to make sure that sacrifice is not quite such a hill to climb, in the budget that I've requested to Congress, I'm asking for another pay raise for the people who wear the uniform. It is necessary; it is the right course of action—

Audience member. We love you, George! [Laughter]

The President. —because in the months and years to come, our Nation is going to be asking more of the United States military. And you have my confidence, because you've earned it. You earn it every day, in the difficulties you accept and the dangers

you face. You're each here to serve your country, and your country is grateful. You're here because you believe in America, and America will always believe in you.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:04 a.m. at the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith, USAF, commander, and Maj. Gen. Dennis R. Larsen, USAF, vice commander, 7th Air Force; and Brig. Gen. David E. Clary, USAF, commander, 51st Fighter Wing.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jiang Zemin of China in Beijing, China

February 21, 2002

President Jiang. On behalf of the Chinese government and people, I would like to once again extend our warm welcome to you, Mr. President. We have just had a very good discussion about issues of utmost concern, and now I'm prepared to have a continued exchange of views with you on other aspects of the bilateral ties, as well as the international situation.

You will have the floor first.

President Bush. Well, Mr. President, first of all, thank you again for your gracious hospitality. I am so pleased that my wife, Laura, is traveling with me so that she can see the progress of your great country.

I also want to reiterate what I said inside about how thankful our Nation is, my Nation is, for your strong support in our war against terror and how gracious you were with your phone call right after September the 11th, expressing your condolences.

We look forward to finding areas where we can work together, such as energy cooperation—is a chance for us to explore technologies that will enable your country to grow and our country to grow at the same time, work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for example.

I gave a speech in the United States the other day outlining our vision of making sure we have economic growth and, at the same time, employ new technologies that will help us reduce greenhouse gases. And I announced to the country that I look forward

to working with nations such as yourself, China, to explore ways that we can work together to deal with this issue in a cooperative spirit.

Another area where we can work together is on HIV/AIDS. I understand your Minister of Health is coming to the United States soon, and we can have a good chance for our Secretaries of Health to be able to work together and share information and share hope of able to deal with this very important issue, not only in our own countries but around the world.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Great Hall of the People. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Public Health Zhang Wenkang of China. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Jiang in Beijing February 21, 2002

President Jiang. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by extending on behalf of the Chinese Government and people a warm welcome to President Bush.

This is my second meeting with the President. Four months ago, we had a successful meeting during the APEC Summit in Shanghai. In our talks today, President Bush and I looked back on the past 30 years of China-U.S. relations and had an in-depth discussion on bilateral ties and the current international situation. We have reached many important common understandings and achieved positive results in many areas.

We have agreed that under the current complex and volatile international situation, China and the United States, both with significant influence in the world, should step up dialog and cooperation, properly handle their differences, and work together to move the constructive and cooperative relations between us further forward.

We have agreed to intensify high-level strategic dialog, as well as contacts between various agencies at all levels, with a view to increasing mutual understanding and trust. I have accepted with pleasure and appreciation President Bush's invitation to visit the

United States in October this year, prior to the APEC meeting in Mexico. At the invitation of Vice President Cheney, Vice President Hu Jintao will visit the United States in the near future.

We have agreed to vigorously carry out bilateral exchanges and cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, energy, science and technology, environmental protection, the prevention of HIV/AIDS, and law enforcement, conduct strategic dialog on regional economic and financial matters, and hold within the year meetings of the Joint Economic Commission, Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, and Joint Commission on Science and Technology.

President Bush and I have also had an in-depth discussion on the international fight against terrorism. We have agreed to step up consultation and cooperation on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit and to beef up the bilateral mid- and long-term mechanism for counterterrorism exchanges and cooperation. The two sides have also exchanged views on a series of major international and regional issues, and decided to enhance communication and coordination.

To properly handle the Taiwan question is vital to stability and growth of China-U.S. relations. In my meeting with President Bush, I have elaborated the Chinese Government's basic position of peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems" for the solution of the Taiwan question. And President Bush emphasized that the United States upholds the "one China" policy and will abide by the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués.

Given the differences in the national condition of the two countries, it is natural for China and the United States to disagree on some issues, which President Bush and I have discussed with candor. So long as the two sides act in a spirit of mutual respect, equality, and seeking common ground while shelving differences, we will be able to gradually narrow our differences, enhance our mutual understanding, and advance our cooperation.